

École Olds Elementary School

Orchestrating Early Success



Three Year Plan 2009-2012

Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73

A. SCHOOL PROFILE

École Olds Elementary School (OES) is a safe and caring K-4 school dedicated to academic achievement and the positive personal development of children. It is staffed by a group of caring and compassionate people who love kids. Throughout our school there is an atmosphere of energy and enthusiasm that reminds us that learning is fun! OES is a dual-track school offering both English and French Immersion.

School Motto: *Orchestrating Early Success*

School Vision: A safe and caring school where every child has the opportunity to be a scholar, an artist, and a citizen.

OES Highlights: Here are a few of the many quality opportunities that we provide our students:

- Full-time specialist teachers for music and physical education.
- Full-time librarian working with a collection of more than 19,000 titles.
- Comprehensive supports for students with special needs.
- Pre-Kindergarten program for 3 and 4 years olds with special needs.
- Early Literacy Program for students in kindergarten through grade four.
- Kindergarten programs with full-time educational assistants.
- French Immersion program currently offered in grades one through five.
- Two-station gym, complete with a climbing wall.
- School-wide art projects that represent our children and their work.
- Performance assemblies by each grade level as well as professional music and drama performances.

Mascot: Hooper The Owl - *"Be helpful, not hurtful. Do the right thing!"*

Address: 5413 – 53 Street ▪ Olds, AB ▪ T4G 1S9

Contact Info: Phone (403) 556-8477 ▪ Fax (403) 556-3858 ▪ www.oldselementary.ca

B. ENROLLMENT

Grade	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11*	10-11*	11-12*
K	101	83	74	78	96	90	88	86
1	109	117	88	105	100	102	102	104
2	115	120	111	88	110	100	100	102
3	104	128	119	111	88	105	105	100
4	119	122	117	124	112	88	88	105
Total	548	570	509	506	506	485	483	497

* denotes predicted enrollments based on the 2006 Census Data from Statistics Canada

C. POSITIVE TRENDS

1. **A Wide Variety of Learning Opportunities:** The staff at OES orchestrates early success by providing quality learning opportunities to students in academics, arts, music, P.E., French, and citizenship. We have full-time teacher specialists in both music and physical education. In addition, there exists a school-wide focus on early literacy and numeracy. We are also proud of our French Immersion program which continues to grow each year.

2. **Student and Parent Satisfaction:** Overall, our stakeholder satisfaction surveys indicate that our students and parents are extremely satisfied with the quality of education offered at our school. We also recognize that we benefit from living in a supportive community.
3. **Grade 3 Achievement Test Results in Mathematics:** The percentage of students meeting the acceptable standard on these tests has remained above provincial average in mathematics for the past five years. At the same time, our participation rates are consistently above provincial average.
4. **Safe and Caring School:** OES has a caring atmosphere. We know this because in our 2009 satisfaction survey, 99% of students and 99% of parents said so. Our school discipline is built around our beloved mascot Hooper. Hooper's Code – Be helpful not hurtful is how we teach children to do what is right. Discipline at OES isn't reactive; it's proactive.
5. **Assessment for Learning in the 21st Century:** Our school's AISI (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement) project is all about assessment *for* learning in the 21st century. This means that our teachers play the daily role of "coach" by providing children with clearly defined targets, opportunities to practice and improve, quality feedback, and plans for the next steps in learning. It also means that we examine these roles in the context of 21st century learning.
6. **Helping All Students Succeed:** OES has a wide variety of learning support programs in place to support the unique learning needs of children. Our ELI (Early Literacy Initiative), speech services, PUF (Program Unit Funding for 3-5 year olds), Pre-Kindergarten, and special education programs all focus on including students in classroom activities while also providing small group and one-on-one support when necessary.
7. **Communication:** 96% of parents are satisfied with the communications they receive from the school. Our classroom newsletters, school newsletters, Hooper Hotlines, and school website (www.oldselementary.ca) all focus on delivering key messages to our parents and community.

D. AREAS OF FOCUS

1. **Grade 3 Achievement Test Results in English Language Arts:** While our participation rates are consistently above provincial averages, we have seen a decline in the number of students meeting the acceptable standard and standard of excellence in grade 3 English Language Arts. As a result, teacher collaboration from kindergarten to grade 4 is focusing on improvement in this area.
2. **Educational Technology:** In our 2006-2007 satisfaction survey both teachers and parents agreed that OES could improve the way we teach children the technology skills they need to know. Since that time, we have replaced the entire fleet of aging computers and focused on professional development for teachers and learning opportunities for students in the area of technology. OES has a technology plan that allows technology to serve as a transparent tool for learning, teaching, and communicating. The latest addition to our plan was the installation of 25 interactive SMART Boards in all of our classrooms.

E. ISSUES TO OVERCOME

1. **Students At-Risk:** As a society and a community, we have more at-risk students than ever before. An increasing number of students under the age of 9 are living below the poverty line. Alberta's hot and cold economy has created hardships in the areas of housing and food costs. Schools like ours must continue to address student needs and work with community agencies to help families in need.
2. **Declining Enrollments:** Although our community has experienced remarkable commercial growth in the last two years, a shortage of affordable housing has resulted in a marked decrease in the number of young children in our community. The 2006 Census reveals that there are only 365 children 0-4 years old in the Town of Olds. This pales in comparison to the next three age brackets (5-9, 10-14, and 15-19) which boast totals of 445, 465, and 505 respectively. The 0-4 population in the County of Mountain View has also decreased by almost 20%. As a result, we will continue to support our community's efforts to develop affordable housing for young families.

F. GOALS – OUTCOMES – MEASURES - TARGETS

Olds Elementary School has aligned its goals with those of Alberta Education and Chinook’s Edge School Division No. 73:

1. **Highly responsive and responsible school.**
2. **High quality learning opportunities for all**
3. **Excellence in student learning outcomes.**

1

Highly responsive and responsible school

Outcome

1. **The school is safe and caring.**
2. **The school effectively communicates with parents and the community.**
3. **The school promotes physical activity, health, and wellness.**

Measurements

■ School Satisfaction Survey Results: Safe & Caring – Health & Wellness

Statement	Student Satisfaction ¹		Parent Satisfaction ²	
	2008-09 Result	2009-10 Target	2008-09 Result	2009-10 Target
Students/Parents feel welcome at the school	100%	95%	99%	95%
Students feel safe at school.	95%		94%	
The school promotes physical activity, health, & wellness.	100%		99%	
There is a caring atmosphere in the school.	99%		99%	
The school facilities are well cared for.	96%		97%	
Footnotes:				
1 – The % of students who agree with the given statement on the Schollie Satisfaction Survey.				
2 – The % of parents who agree with the given statement on the Schollie Satisfaction Survey.				

■ School Satisfaction Survey Results: Communication

Statement	Parent Satisfaction ¹	
	2008-09 Result	2009-10 Target
The communications you receive from the school.	96%	95%
The way the school keeps you informed about your child’s progress.	97%	
The way the school involves parents in school activities.	100%	
The school’s process for improving the quality of education.	99%	
The role the School Council plays in the school.	98%	
Footnotes:		
1 – The % of parents who agree with the given statement on the Schollie Satisfaction Survey.		

2 High quality learning opportunities for all

Outcomes

1. Students have a wide variety of quality learning opportunities.
2. Students have access to opportunities in early literacy, music, and art.

Measurements

■ School Satisfaction Survey Results: Quality Learning Opportunities

Statement	Parent Satisfaction ¹	
	2008-09 Result	2009-10 Target
The help and support teachers give your child to help him/her learn.	98%	95%
The choice of programs available in the school system.	93%	
The academic achievement of the students in this school.	97%	
The opportunity for your child to learn about computers and technology.	97%	
The overall quality of education your child receives.	100%	

Footnotes:
1 – The % of parents who agree with the given statement on the Schollie Satisfaction Survey.

■ Qualitative Measures

Measures	Results
Student Activities	These results are shared through our newsletters, local paper, website, and Annual Education Results Report.
School Celebrations	
Innovative School-wide Programs	
Awards and Recognition	
Community Involvement	

3 Excellence in student learning outcomes

Outcome

1. Students demonstrate high academic achievement.

Measurements

■ Provincial Achievement Test Results

Subject	Acceptable Standard ¹		Standard of Excellence ²		Participation Rates ³	
	2008-09 Result	2009-10 Target	2008-09 Result	2009-10 Target	2008-09 Result	2009-10 Target
Language Arts 3	77.8%	90%	9.3%	15%	96.3%	95%
Math 3	83.3%		30.0%		95.6%	

Footnotes:
1 – The % of students who achieve the Acceptable Standard on the provincial achievement test.
2 – The % of students who achieve the Standard of Excellence on the provincial achievement test.
3 – The % of students who write the provincial achievement test.

G. OES STRATEGIES – MAKING IT HAPPEN !

Literacy ~

- **ABC Music** – is an OES program offered in addition to kindergarten music that integrates the components of early literacy: alphabet recognition, letter sounds, rhyming words, natural rhythm/beat, and blending letter sounds.
- **Animated Literacy** – are teaching activities that help children learn to read and write through the use of alphabet stories, songs, gestures, and phonetic activities.
- **Assessment of Reading** – Through grade-level reading assessments, we identify students who are reading below grade level and develop individualized plans to close the reading gap.
- **Beginning, Middle, and End** – is a school-wide focus on the importance of great beginnings, descriptive middles, and effective endings whenever we write.
- **Community of Learners** – is classroom approach to writing that views children as authors. Each day, young authors continue planning, writing, and sharing from the point they progressed to on the previous day.
- **Fluency Testing and Instruction** – is our grade 3 focus on helping students improve fluency - a child's ability to easily, effortlessly, and smoothly speak, read, and write with automatic word recognition.
- **Guided Reading** – is a teaching strategy used at OES that helps children learn to use independent reading strategies. Students work in small groups and are matched to text by ability. The teacher coaches students to develop tools, cues, and strategies that improve reading.
- **Leap To Literacy** – is a collaborative program with Chinook's Edge and community agencies to identify pre-school children who will benefit from pre-kindergarten learning opportunities. The program also provides parents and caregivers with resources, information, and support in the area of Early Literacy.
- **Nursery Rhymes** – OES has a school-wide focus on nursery rhymes. Why? Research clearly indicates a strong relation between early exposure to nursery rhymes and a child's success in reading, writing, and spelling.
- **Reading at OES** – Teachers at OES use many approaches for developing excellent readers and celebrating early literacy. There is a school-wide focus on five reading components – phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. (as articulated by Dawn Reithaug) As well, a program called Literacy Backpacks (developed by OES teachers Shannon Basisty and Helene Fisher) helps families become involved.
- **OES Library** – is a special place. Its 19,000-volume collection is used extensively by teachers and students to support all areas of learning within the provincial curriculum. All students have a book exchange period. In addition, they develop library search skills and research strategies for life-long learning. Our library helps us emphasize literacy through book fairs, traveling book cases, and celebrations.
- **Writing at OES** – Teachers at OES use a variety of approaches for developing excellent writers. There is a school-wide focus on the writing process and recognizing children as authors. OES teachers give timely, specific feedback, and students learn to use tools such as writing guides, dictionaries, and spelling lists.

Numeracy ~

- **Daily Repetition and Review** – result in student success. OES teachers help students learn and review key math concepts every day and connect math to daily, real-life situations. We also focus on process rather than just the getting the “right answer”. Many of our programs are based on “Math for Success” by OES teacher Darlene Kusick, “Developmental Mathematics” by John van de Walle and “Power of Ten” by Trevor Calkins.
- **Estimation and Problem Solving** – At OES, we teach estimation and problem solving every day. Teachers use contexts such as calendar activities, money, and games to help children become critical thinkers.
- **Love for Math** – At OES, kids love math because teachers make math fun. Our program is about helping kids gain confidence, become great mathematicians, and tell others that they can do it!
- **New Program of Studies** – A new program of studies was implemented in September 2008 for K,1,and 4 and September 2009 for grade 2. Grades 3 will follow in 2010. PD activities for teachers recognize this.

Effective Teaching and Lifelong Learning for All ~

- **Assessment for Learning** – OES teachers play the role of “coach” by providing children with clearly defined targets, exemplars, opportunities to practice and improve, quality feedback, and plans for the next steps in learning.

- **Classroom Instruction** – In our school, teachers help students master learning outcomes through active learning opportunities, cooperative learning activities, independent practice, as well as direct instruction.
- **Classroom Routines** – Daily procedures and routines are clearly established and practiced and practiced and practiced again, and again. The use of routines builds success for children and reduces distractions and stress.
- **Core French** – is what all our grade 4 students take to learn about the French language and culture.
- **Educational technology** – serves as a transparent tool for teaching, learning, and communicating. Every K-5 classroom in our school is equipped with an interactive white-board called a SMART Board. A detailed technology plan addresses professional development for staff and how we use technology to learn.
- **Field Trips and Guest Speakers** – At OES, we recognize the important role that guest speakers and field trips play in the curriculum. All efforts are made to limit additional costs for students and a benevolent fund exists.
- **Professional Development** – opportunities for teachers and support staff include conferences, conventions, AISI sessions, CESD workshops and PD days, Lunch + 30 collaboration, staff meetings, professional growth plans, and student teacher partnerships with post-secondary institutions. OES uses a “teachers as leaders” model and future needs have been identified in assessment and technology.
- **Science** – is where we create opportunities for children to explore and investigate, see inside things, and find answers to their questions. It is also where we help to nurture a child’s sense of wonderment.
- **Social Studies** – develops children who are engaged, active, informed, and responsible citizens. It also helps children develop their sense of self and community, remembering to “think of the other person.”

Fine Arts ~

- **A Full-Time Music Specialist** – teaches every OES student music and builds on our reputation for having an outstanding music program. Our program emphasizes vocal development, rhythmic awareness, instrument technique, creative movement, ensemble playing and valuable social skills.
- **Art from the Start** – is a traveling exhibit that showcases more than 300 OES student art projects at the local hospital, library, and aquatic centre.
- **Art** – is a powerful learning medium for all areas of the curriculum. We believe in the value of using art to represent our children’s work. Our students’ artwork is showcased in our hallways, murals, and in our community.
- **Clay Projects** – are enjoyed by our children on an annual basis using our very own kiln. A professional artist and clay specialist is contracted to support this very special program.
- **Cultural Events** – are scheduled 2-3 times each year to introduce children to bands, musical performers, instruments, dance, and magic. We also have a Traveling Art Show display art in our hallways twice each year.
- **Hallway Murals** – are created or extended every three years through the Artist in Residency program. Our geological tile project will be completed during the 2009-10 school year.
- **OES Performances** – at every grade level help showcase our children’s talents in fine arts and literacy. In addition, grade four classes and individual students participate in the Olds Kiwanis Music Festival.
- **Our OES Choir** – practices every week and represents OES well by performing at the Olds Kiwanis Music Festival, retirement homes, churches, and other community events.

Learning Supports ~

- **A Special Education Teacher** – is always available to coordinate programs to support the unique learning needs of our children.
- **Assistive Technology Project** – explored the ways that computer technology can help children become better readers and writers. This project has expanded to all of our classrooms with Read & Write Gold software.
- **Classroom Teachers** – go the extra mile to create inclusive classrooms and meet the needs of every child.
- **Educational Assistants (EA)** – play a vital role in our school. EA’s work with classroom teachers to provide small group, one-on-one, in-class, and pull-out instruction to help kids learn.
- **Early Literacy Initiative (ELI)** – provide struggling readers with individualized, one-on-one instruction with certified educational assistants (under the supervision of our special education teacher) several times each week.
- **Level B Testing** – is available through our special education teacher.

- **Pre-Kindergarten** – is an innovative 375-hour program offered to 4-year olds with mild/moderate needs and to 3-4 year olds with severe learning needs. Our program is in its second year of operation.
- **Program Unit Funding (PUF)** – provides additional support to 3-5 year olds to attend kindergarten at OES.
- **Speech Services** – are coordinated by a Speech/Language Pathologist. Students receive weekly programming.

French Immersion ~

- **A Bilingual Culture** – at OES is enhanced by celebrations, drama events, special guests, French Carnival, French songs, field trips, French Immersion Information Night, building signage, communication, and marketing.
- **Canadian Parents For French (CPF)** – has a local chapter that supports our program, our students, and our parents. They continue to play a leadership role in our program.
- **Chinook’s Edge K-12 Plan** – was developed, in part, by the Olds French Immersion Focus Group. The plan paints a K-12 picture for parents and provides additional divisional support for French Immersion in Olds.
- **Communication and Marketing** – through radio, newspaper, internet, daycares, private kindergartens, OES parents, registration documents, CESD Communications Officer, community businesses, realtors, and community events play a vital role as our French Immersion program continues to grow.
- **Kindergarten** – classes at OES receive instruction in French and buddy with French Immersion students to learn more about French Immersion and to gain an appreciation for the French language and culture.
- **Word of Mouth** – Parents, teachers, and students speak positively about French Immersion.

Physical Activity, Health, and Wellness ~

- **A Full-Time Physical Education Specialist** – who teaches every OES student physical education and coordinates a school-wide approach to physical activity, health, and wellness.
- **Activities for Kids** – OES students have opportunities to learn new skills in swimming, curling, skating, golf, climbing, gymnastics, dance, games, fitness, cross-country running and basketball.
- **Daily Physical Activity (DPA)** – OES is committed to 30 minutes/day of physical activity for every child, and recess time at OES adds up to 55 minutes/day. This commitment helps students become active for life.
- **Ever Active School** – means that Olds Elementary has been provincially recognized for our commitment to providing and promoting the benefits of physical activity, healthy eating, and mental health.
- **Family School Wellness Program** – is a confidential, voluntary, preventative service offered to children and families. OES has a full-time Family School Wellness Worker who spends 100% of her time helping kids succeed.
- **Handwashing Campaign** – is an ongoing classroom-based program coordinated with our health region.
- **Kilometre Club** – walking/jogging program motivates students and teachers to get outside on a daily basis. Fun awards like “The Golden Shoe” recognize students and classrooms for going the distance, literally.
- **Nutrition Initiatives** – like dental health and healthy eating are coordinated with David Thompson Health Region on a monthly basis. Our milk and yogurt program and learning activities in our Kitchen help children make healthy choices. In addition, Olds Co-op graciously donates healthy food for kids who miss meals.
- **Playground** – Our students have seven different playground structures and many large playing fields on which they can develop strength and agility while having fun.
- **School Celebrations** – like First Kilometre Club Run, OES Fun Run, Terry Fox Run, Run Skip Jump and Play Day and Western Day help us celebrate our healthy and happy school.
- **Youth Empowerment and Support (YES) Program** – provides OES with a Youth Mentor who facilitates fun activities for kids (during & after school) while coaching children in the areas of decision-making and resiliency.

Communication and Parental Involvement ~

- **An OES Communication Plan** – outlines key messages and how we use face-to-face opportunities, local media, newsletters, our school website, and the business community to communicate these to stakeholders.
- **Bus Driver Breakfasts** – help keep lines of communication open with the special people who provide thousands of kilometers of safe transportation for our children.
- **Newsletters** – from the school and from individual classrooms play key roles in communications.

- **OES School Council** – supports our programs and creates opportunities for kids through fundraising, recognition, program evaluation, parental input, and shared decision making.
- **The OES Website** – at www.oldselementary.ca provides stakeholders with up-to-date calendars, newsletters, announcements, updates, community supporters “Friends of OES”, programs, plans, and reports.
- **Parent Volunteers** – are important and appreciated. We love it when parents volunteer in our school. A detailed list of procedures helps welcome our visitors and volunteers while also ensuring the safety of our children.
- **Special Events** – such as our Welcome Back BBQ, ABC Music Showcase, classroom open houses, Welcome to Kindergarten, Children’s Fair, OES Sock Hop and parent-teacher interviews help us connect with parents.
- **Reporting Student Progress** – is done in a variety of ways, including conferences, progress reports, and portfolios several times each year. As a staff, we are examining the way we report to parents using Assessment for Learning as a basis for discussion. Progress report formats and content are changing.
- **Welcome to Olds Elementary School: Thanks for Visiting** – is the clear message we want to communicate as we continue to enhance our front entrance and foyer with some artwork, welcome signs and pictures.

A Safe and Caring School ~

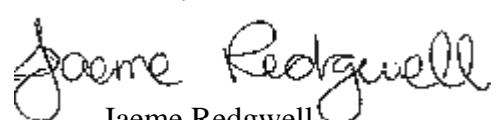
- **Academic and Social Development** – are equally important at OES. That’s why so much of our time is spent on the character education initiatives described in this section.
- **Extra-curricular activities** – such as choir, cross-country running, drop-in morning basketball, French club, Hooper’s Hoops, leadership club, science fair, and the sunshine fund provide social development along with great memories for our children.
- **Grade 4 Transitioning** – facilitated by our teachers helps our grade 4’s find early success at Deer Meadow.
- **Hooper’s Code** – “Be helpful not hurtful” is how we teach children to do what is right. Discipline at OES isn’t reactive; it’s proactive.
- **Hooper’s Grade Themes** – Hooper has a secret message for each grade. “It’s coooooool to” Sorry, Hooper only reveals the rest of the messages if you come and visit our school☺
- **Horizon School** – students and staff are included in many classes and celebrations at OES, and vice versa. Many friendships have been formed through our link to Horizon and Mrs. P’s Place, a private kindergarten.
- **Jungle Junction** – is a before and after school care program right in our school. Children don’t even have to leave the building at the end of the day.
- **Keeping our School Clean** – is very important at OES. Students and staff do their part to help our dedicated custodians keep OES clean.
- **Leadership Club** – organizes special events and celebrations for our school and shows how kids help kids.
- **New Student Introductions** – are important to us. Every new student meets Hooper and the office staff, goes on an OES tour, and gets a special buddy to help him/her during the first few months at OES.
- **OES Safety and Security Plan** – outlines how drills, supervision, first aid, building security, and crosswalk safety protect our students and staff on a daily basis and also in the event of an emergency or disaster situation.
- **Office Support Staff** – provide care to students, parents, and staff. They also take pride in making a great first impression upon OES guests and visitors.
- **Special Programs** – in cooperation with the Olds Fire Department, Alberta Farm Safety, Olds RCMP, CESD Transportation, and Family School Wellness help teach children how to avoid risks in our world.
- **Student Recognition** – comes in the form of daily encouragement, pictures, cards, positive phone calls, science fair awards, the “Golden Shoe”, the Grade 4 Farewell Ceremony, and February’s Hooper’s Heroes.
- **Thinking of the Other Person** – motivates us, as a school community, to support organizations such as Foster Child; Food Bank, Christmas Angels, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Juvenile Diabetes, Terry Fox Run, and Unicef.



Ray Hoppins
Principal



Debbie Thompson
Vice-Principal



Jaeme Redgwell
School Council Chairperson